

# PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

January 2022

## PTC to Start New Reservation System

By Danny Tucker, Philmont Training Center (PTC) Director

There is little doubt that 2021 was a year with many hurdles, but with perseverance, and the Scout Oath and Law as our

guide, Philmont was still able to deliver wilderness and learning adventure memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to all our Ambassadors who helped to promote the ranch and make 2021 the largest attended

summer in history. I am ecstatic that the new year has arrived and cannot wait to see all the positive things that are in store for Scouting and Philmont.

Launching this month is our new online registration system. The new Event Management System (EMS) is designed to ease the registration process and provide a more friendly guest experience. It includes better tools to customize experiences and improve communication. After you register on EMS, guests will be directed to a second online system called CampSpot to register for their housing. CampSpot allows guests to choose the right accommodations and location to fit their needs.

This new registration system is very similar to most resort style reservation platforms: reserve your hotel room then make a reservation for your conference. We just reversed the steps. Ambassadors need



Families can choose from several options, such as Deluxe Tents, shown here, after signing up for a PTC Conference or Family Adventure Camp.

## Family Program Returns for Conference Participants

Spouses and children of Philmont Training Center (PTC) participants will have their own "Kids and Kin" program to enjoy the adventures of Philmont. "Silverados are coming back!" announced PTC Director Danny Tucker at the Ambassador Webinar last November.

"We're not sure if we will bring back all the different age programs like Mustangs and Ropers, but we may instead combine groups like Cubs and Scouts BSA," explained Danny. "We're also looking at ways that parents and children can participate together like on horse rides as we do at Family Adventure Camp."

Ambassadors should be getting the word out that Family Adventure Camp is the best family vacation. "Scouters can come as a participant and have all the fun like your spouse and kids did while you were in a conference," says Danny. "Those who are coming are having a phenomenal time!"

Philmont now offers Family Adventure Camp in the Winter starting in March when participants can enjoy playing in the snow. In the Fall, Autumn Camp participants have spectacular scenery and activities at a reduced price.

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## Banners, Table Cover Available

Your Philmont display will stand out in a crowd with the addition of colorful banners and a table cover. These items are now available for purchase through the Stephen Duke. See page 8 of the Newsletter for information on ordering them.



Bob Weagraff, Steven Gold, David Lyons and Tom Kube paused on their Autumn Adventure for a group photo.

## Ambassadors Earn Arrowhead On Scenic Autumn Adventure

Four intrepid Ambassadors trekked from over 30 miles, completed a conservation project and earned the coveted Philmont Arrowhead Autumn Award last October. "It was great seeing the backcountry's fall colors and appreciating the quiet there," remarked Bob Weagraff.

For Ambassadors like Bob, it was a chance to experience Philmont without having a crew of youth to watch over. For others, like Steven Gold, it was a learning experience about Treks that he could share later with a crew of youth he hoped would someday go on their own Trek. Along the way, all the participants got to talk about their experiences promoting God's Country and learning from others on the Trek.

The crew started from Six Mile Gate and hiked to Indian Writings for the night, then proceeded to Metcalf Station the next day. On the way there, the crew did their conservation project on part of a new trail so crews will no longer need to hike the road into Metcalf.

Their ranger who accompanied the group for their trip, was an excellent resource of information about Philmont as well as for the Trek itself. On Autumn Adventure treks, rangers participate along the whole journey and participate in as well as teach backcountry living. "He really sur-

prised us by cooking an excellent homemade spaghetti dinner at Metcalf."

One of the great things about an all-adult Trek is how everyone works well together. "You don't have to fret about the group dynamics as I did as an Adult Advisor on a council contingent. Everyone shared responsibility, although Dave Lyons and Steven Gold alternated as Crew Leaders.

On the third day, they hiked to Ponil. Their fourth night was at Pueblano. From there it was on to Santa Claus and the trail through Bear Canyon for their pickup on Highway 64.

Although the summer afternoon monsoon rains may be missing, autumn does bring its own challenges. Days can be pleasantly warm, but nights can get downright chilly, often below freezing. An extra layer of insulation can be the difference between comfort and cold at night. Bob found out the hard way. The route had its share of challenging hikes, especially the 8 miles between Ponil and Metcalf, so the Crew definitely earned their Philmont Arrowhead award.

Look for news about the 2022 Ambassador Autumn Adventure in upcoming issues

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## Trek Slots Open for 2022

Do you know of a unit that is disappointed that they did not get a Philmont Trek slot for 2023? Perhaps you'll be their hero when you tell them they can go this summer.

Despite the demand for Philmont Adventures, not every available opening is filled. Some dates are just not as popular as others and are still open. In a number of cases, though, the best laid plans go astray and crews have to cancel, leaving their slot available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

A list of 2022 dates can be found at the following site:

<https://www.philmontscout ranch.org/register/2022availability/>

Of course, crews still need to plan and prepare for the rigors of a wilderness expedition. This means that they have to accelerate their training schedule.

While the best way to prepare is to go on multi-day backpacking trips, there are ways to mimic the experience. Marathon runners do not run 26+ miles to practice for the long run, but instead run shorter distances daily. Similarly, Scouts can practice by going on weekend camping trips using backpacking equipment. They can do a 10 mile hike with full backpacks at a state park and then cook noodles or rice dishes on single burner.

Any team-building experience that the crew does together is great for building the rapport necessary for getting along on the trail. This can be a community service project or a team sport event.

Want to be a resource for other crews going to Philmont? Ambassadors can now get a list of their council crews heading to Philmont in 2022 by contacting Amanda at [Amanda.martinez@scouting.org](mailto:Amanda.martinez@scouting.org). Ambassadors can introduce themselves as a resource for helping with the trip and should encourage them to watch the Preparedness Seminars at <https://www.philmontscout ranch.org/philmont-prep-seminars/>.

Ambassadors can watch them as well by signing in with "Ambassador" instead of crew number when registering to watch the seminars at the site.

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# PTC Adapts Pricing Practices for Conferences

Some things remain the same and some change. The same applies to Philmont Training Center (PTC).

As always, PTC offers many conferences which will help Scouters deliver the promise that Scouting makes to youth and families. What's changed is that PTC has a new pricing practice which recognizes that the costs of each conference varies with the experiences and materials provided and is therefore priced accordingly. Likewise, attendees get to choose the type of accommodation that they would like, and there are different costs for these as well.

Financial Aid is available from Philmont for Scouters contemplating attending a conference. Waite Phillips recognized the importance of training so much that he endowed PTC with money to assist leaders to attend. The application form is available on the PTC registration site.

Here's a few conferences that Ambassadors may want to highlight to potential attendees:

**Seat at the Scouting Table** - Women have long been members of the BSA—now more women than ever. If you are a woman looking for a seat at the table, this class is for you. If you are interested in helping women find their seats at the table, this class is for you. If you are a professional helping to promote diversity in your council, this class is for you.

Diverse teams are the key to high-performing units, districts, councils, service territories, and our national council. Scouting needs diverse leaders now more than ever, but are we providing meaningful opportunities for youth and adult females to offer their perspectives and talents across all levels of our organization?

Join us at this thought-provoking session to learn how to create mentors and allies in Scouting, as well as how to become a mentor and an ally to others. We'll look at how to successfully recruit, train, and support youth and adult female leaders. We'll look at how females v. males learn, and problem solve, and the ways Scouting can create a welcoming culture that supports all people in developing and

**Conferences** (Continued on page 7)



The Seat at the Scouting Table conference will assist Scouters in developing the mentors and allies needed to engage young women in the Scouting program. (BSA Photo)

## CUB SCOUT EXTRAVAGANZA

July 24th-30th, 2022

Imagine being able to interact with Cub Scout Leaders from across our country for an entire week while attending this conference at the Philmont Training Center!

AND...being able to choose the Cub Scouting sessions that you would like to take to continue to grow your Cub Scout Leader skills!

The Cub Scout Extravaganza provides you with these opportunities!

Plan a schedule of your choice by selecting from an assortment of Cub Leader topics like:

Outdoor Skills, Training, Cub Scouting Administration,  
Den and Pack Management, Cub Scout FUN and Scouts BSA Transition.

SAVE THE DATE ~ REGISTER TODAY

Philmont Training Center ~ Cimarron, New Mexico  
Register Online at: [www.philmontscout ranch.org/ptc](http://www.philmontscout ranch.org/ptc)

**Who's Who at Philmont**

# Luke Teske - Tooth of Time Traders Manager



**Duties at Philmont:** Oversee \$4+Mil in retail operations including all backcountry trading posts and cantinas, as well as ordering inventory for all locations in base camp and in the backcountry. We have 2 other full time employees who assist in all operations, and we have over 60 seasonal employees during the summer operations.

**How did you come to work at Philmont?** Trek 1992, NJLIC 1994, staff NJLIC 1995, Ranger Department 1996-2001. Always wanted to return to Philmont in some capacity or another. Have worked retail sales (outdoor sporting goods as manager and buyer in Milwaukee, WI) since 1994 and when the ToTT Manager position opened I knew it was a really good match for my love of Philmont and retail knowledge.

**Number of years at Philmont?** 1 in my current job, 6 overall

**Prior positions:** Ranger 1996-1998, Ranger Trainer 1999, Ranger Scheduler 2000-2001, ToTT Manager January 2021 – current

**Prior scouting positions:** Have been registered with the BSA since 1988. Eagle Scout 1991, earned last of 124 merit badges (all that were available as a youth) in 1994, 5 silver palms, 2 youth religious awards, Venturing Gold Award, District Award of Merit, NYLT Council Coordinator for 15+ years, 2 jamborees staff, and the list goes on!

**Most memorable experience at Philmont:**

First and foremost, it would be the 1992 trek that set the hook for life. I had my birthday on Hart Peak, and it was such a positive experience for myself and my self-esteem. I could not get over how cool, beautiful, and inspiring this land (and people) we call HOmE is! Second would be my 6 years in the Ranger Department - tons of great friends, tons of memories, not one year stands out better than the rest - would recommend this to anyone!

**Most humorous experience at Philmont:** Probably 1999 as a Ranger Trainer - we had SO much fun in the backcountry during training, we laughed so hard some nights I fell asleep crying! Great group of people and such a good time.

**What do you like most about working at Philmont?** The staff are so kind and genu-

ine. Everyone is so thoughtful and helpful and we all have such a passion for seeing this place succeed. All people are such hard workers and it is amazing what can be done with such a dedicated work force! Of course, the beautiful land we get to interact with on a daily basis is really awesome too!

**What is your favorite off-duty activity?** I really enjoy taking a drive in the backcountry with my family and showing them some of the different things that make me appreciate Philmont so much. It is really neat to share peaks, trails, vistas, and so many other things with them! Aside from the Ranch favorites, I love to ski and that was another factor which drew me to the mountains of New Mexico - plenty of great places to ski with amazing views!

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## Summer Staffing Starts Now

One of the biggest helps that Ambassadors can provide Philmont is to get the word out about seasonal employment opportunities. Each year, the World's Largest Camp needs to fill over 1000 positions from cooks to program counselors. Many of these positions may qualify for college intern credit with approval from their associated school.



In addition, Ambassadors may be interested themselves in a volunteer positions during the summer at Philmont. If you have specialized background in southwestern history or an occupation featured at a backcountry camp, there may be an interpreter position needing you.

Another Ambassador opportunity is to be a Volunteer Docent at the National Scouting Museum. Docents receive training on exhibits in the museum and then give tours of it to visitors. Docents should have a good understanding of the Scouting program including Aims & Methods, rank advancement and importance of the "Outdoor Classroom." Experience as a Scout leader is greatly beneficial. Basic knowledge of 20th Century American history along with great public communication skills and cheerful disposition are helpful. K-12 educational experience is a huge plus!

Philmont provides housing and food for these volunteer positions, so it's a great way to help others while spending time at HOmE this summer.

A complete listing of positions available can be found on the Philmont web page at <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/jobs/jobdescriptions/>. **P2**



## Ambassador Profile

# Philmont Inspires Michael Williams' Enthusiasm

If anyone says that Philmont is only for advanced Scouts or old-time Scouters, have them talk to Michael Williams.

"My first trip to Philmont was in 2008, so I am a relative newcomer," explained

events such as the University of Scouting, College of Commissioner Science and Cub Scout Pow Wow.

Michael found that motivation alone, though, is not enough. He saw that he

Leadership Challenge this past September and met so many wonderful Scouters.

He draws his motivation to promote Philmont comes from his personal experience. "I had such good feelings about Philmont and the wonderful place that it is that I wanted to share that with others and let them know there are many ways to go to Philmont. At one time I felt it was out of the realm of possibilities for me to go. I have learned that is not true and just about anyone can participate in one program or another at Philmont. There is plenty for everyone."

Most of all, he shares from his personal experience. "Philmont is absolutely a magical place. Lives are changed. Mine has been changed. My sons' lives have been changed. And in 2021, I finally got my wife to go to Philmont. Even though she is not doing as much Scouting as previously (she was a Cubmaster for about 5 years) she, too, fell in love with Philmont. She wears her Philmont belt and buckle around more than I wear mine!

"In the end, promoting Philmont is simple, says Michael. "SMILE and share your love of Philmont."

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**PTC** (Continued from page 1)

to explain that though it may look like there are two charges, it really works out the same.

The Boy Scouts of America has been working hard to make sure this system meets the needs of our guests and the ranch. Your support as an Ambassador to help guests navigate the new system is very much appreciated. We will be adding tools and flow charts to the Ambassador Resources page to guide our team members through this process. Your feedback will be most welcomed.

There is so much to be already thankful for in this new year. I am exciting to be working with each of you to help fill our conferences, treks and individual programs. Thank you for your contribution of time and treasure to help make the magic of Philmont come alive this new year.

**P2**



Michael Williams was promoting Philmont with Alvin Crown (not pictured) at the Utah State Capital at an event honoring Scouts.

Michael. "My 3-year-old son had been in and out of the hospital since December 2007 battling cancer. My older son, who was 7 at the time and a Tiger Cub, needed some special time. I had long wanted to go to Philmont, so I registered for a course at the PTC and took my son along. We had an amazing time and fell in love with Philmont."

Michael, who became an Ambassador in 2015, explains why: "I like to promote Philmont so that others can experience what I have had the chance to experience and to keep the gift that Waite Phillips gave in the minds of as many as possible. I am always inspired when I think about Waite and Genevieve and their incredible generosity."

Michael is an Ambassador in the Crossroads of the West Council which covers Utah, southern Idaho and western Wyoming. It was formed by the merger of three separate Councils, so there is still a lot of organizational unravelling still going on. Fortunately, the new council has five ambassadors who work together to cover

needed to know more about Philmont, so he attended the Ambassador I Seminar in 2015 and the Ambassador II Seminar in 2021. The more he learned, the better, said Michael. "I got more understanding of both sides of the road. I loved getting to go to some of the backcountry camps. I loved getting updated on the new programs and changes. I appreciated hearing from the senior leadership at Philmont as to what is going on."

Michael has been able to put that knowledge into his promotions. He elaborated, "Letting people know about ALL of the options is quite useful. There may be many times that an entire crew can't be put together, and it is good to tell Scouts about individual programs. For those Scouters who may be more seasoned it is great to tell them about the PTC and all of the courses available there."

His older son has attended NAYLE at Philmont and worked in Logistics in 2021. His younger son (the one who was battling stage IV cancer) attended NAYLE in 2021. Michael himself completed the Philmont

***Focus on the Backcountry***

# Hunting Lodge Provided Rustic Amenities

**Elevation: 7,793 Ft.**  
**Water: Potable spigot**

Hunting Lodge is a staffed camp North of Clark's Fork, South of Cimmaroncito, and East of Cypher's Mine. It is just North of Cimarroncito Reservoir and Cathedral Rock. The Hunting Lodge camp is based around a log cabin built by Waite Phillips for his hunting trips on the ranch.

The Hunting Lodge program is based around of tours of the cabin. Any crew coming through, whether staying the night or passing through, can receive a tour. Tours last about a half hour. The staff talks about the history of the lodge, and how it relates to the history of the ranch.

For overnight crews staying at the camp, there is often an evening song and story routine, performed by the staff.

The cabin itself is U-Shaped in plan. There are 5 rooms: two bedrooms, the dining room, the breezeway, and the kitchen. It is a ponderosa pine log cabin construction, with concrete chinking in between the logs.

There are several animal mounts around the cabin. These include a javelina hog, a canvas-back duck, a pintail duck, and a mule deer. These are not originals, but



A cozy fire at Hunting Lodge provides a great setting for staff to describe cabin living.

were provided by the BSA. They are all of species that one time lived on the ranch. There is some electricity in the cabin, with an outlet only in the staff bedroom and lights in the staff bedroom and kitchen. All cooking is done on a wood-burning stove in the kitchen. The stove is not an original, it was purchased by the BSA.

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## Philmont Hosts Hunts for Invitees

Since the 1940s, Philmont has been offering guided, invitational big game hunts to those actively involved in Scouting. Candidates are considered upon recommendation from a local council Scout Executive. If approved, they will be able to submit an application to hunt, which must be accompanied by a deposit. If successful in the draw, they will receive a letter of acceptance. If unsuccessful, Philmont will refund the deposit and Sportsmen will remain on the mailing list for future hunts.

Philmont hosts several hunts throughout the year, including antelope, elk, deer, bear, mountain lion, turkey and buffalo.

The fees include room and board, a guide, vehicle, skippers, packers and meat processing. There are no individual charges and charges will not be prorated each day.

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# Living with Sleep Apnea in Backcountry and PTC

Sleep apnea and other sleep disorders are a growing problem across the country; with planning and discussion with your physician, most common issues associated with sleep apnea should not affect your Philmont experience.

## Prior to coming to Philmont

We ask that anyone who suffers from sleep apnea consult their pulmonologist or sleep specialist prior to participating in a Philmont trek. Things that you may want to mention to your physician are:

- Sleeping conditions: Lying on uneven ground with a thin sleeping pad may worsen symptoms.
- Altitude: Philmont campsites range

from 6,000 to over 10,000 feet above sea level. The altitude may make your sleep apnea worse or may make your CPAP machine less efficient.

- Cool temps: Nighttime temperatures can drop into the low 40's or colder. This cold air can make CPAP batteries less efficient or may change the severity of your sleep apnea.

## Sleep Apnea on the Trail

Many sleep apnea patients successfully complete Philmont backcountry treks each year. We've found that many physicians suggest participants leave their CPAP at home and plan to hike and sleep without the machine since CPAP machines can be

the Belay On BSA manual and shows you how to take everyone to the next level of team-building and leader facilitation. June 26 – July 2. \$450 plus housing

**Philmont Philmont History: The Land, The People, The Saga** - Every major activity associated with the opening of the American West happened at Philmont, and every group of people involved in those activities lived or camped on the ranch. This week-long program will immerse you in that rich history with daily field trips to the very places on and around the ranch where that history actually happened! Join experts on the local area, Philmont itself, and the Waite Phillips story as they travel to those locations with you to share their knowledge of this historic land and the characters who inhabited it. Visit the sites where traders and settlers traveled on the Santa Fe Trail at Rayado, fortune seekers sought riches during the gold rush at Baldy Town, dinosaurs and the Anasazi hunted in the North Ponil Canyon, and Waite Phillips and his family created the pinnacle of Scouting. Hear their stories from historians and subject-matter experts who will bring that history to life for you as you stand in the very footprints of those who lived it. June 26 July 2, \$525 plus housing. **P2**

**Ambassador  
Seminars  
June 19 to 25, 2022  
Click Here**

heavy and require multiple batteries to last the duration of the trip. With that in mind, it is important to remember the following:

- Each patient is limited to one medication/supply drop per trek, but due to the logistics of those drop-offs and our crew loads, Philmont may not be able to help with battery drops or recharging batteries. If you choose to carry your CPAP, you should plan on carrying enough batteries for your entire trip or have a tried-and-true plan to recharge them during your trip.
- Learn to adjust your machine for the changes in altitude and find out what the most efficient settings are to prolong battery life.
- Have a plan for what to do if your CPAP stops working; this may be another device such as a mouth piece or medications to help you sleep. Please note that CPAPs/batteries cannot be sent down to Base if they cease to work on the trail.



PTC Tents have electricity to power CPAP devices for attendees

## Sleep Apnea at PTC

Philmont Training Center (PTC) provides access to 110v power for each tent, so powering a CPAP device is possible. Upon check in, guests should inform the staff that they have a medical device that will require power so that can be taken into account when giving tent assignments. Long power outages are possible, so having batteries or a backup plan is suggested.

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## Conferences *(Continued from page 3)*




utilizing their leadership skills. In addition to educational sessions, group discussions, and time for networking, participants will take part in hands-on outdoor skill building—including a daytime outing in the Philmont backcountry.

This conference is open to participants of all genders and backgrounds who want to build allies and engage support females (youth and adult). Led by a highly experienced and largely female staff, this conference will challenge you to establish your own goals as well as a plan for growing diversity in your local council and across the Scouting movement. July 24 - 30. \$450 plus housing.

**Facilitating with C.O.F.F.E.E. and T.E.A.** Come and learn how to use Challenging Outdoor Fun-Filled Family-Engaged Experiences (COFFEE) and Team Enhancing Activities (TEA) designed to strengthen Scout/Scouter facilitation and leadership skills. By attending this conference, you will discover ways to maximize the involvement of participants of all ages. You will learn debriefing skills that maximize group learning and be able to teach your Scouts, Scout families, and units how to reflect on what they have learned while having fun together. After attending this conference, we guarantee you'll take away numerous facilitation tips, a deck of game cards that fit in your pocket, and at least three debriefing strategies that develop leadership and facilitation skills. This conference builds on the fundamentals found in



## ORDER MAPS

		
North Sectional Map	Full Wall Map	South Sectional Map

## !! NEW ITEM- TABLE RUNNER - NEW ITEM !!



30" x 90"

## ORDER BANNERS

			
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[Click Here to purchase Philmont Promotional Materials.](#)